

Proletarian Era

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Budget speech 2026 A harangue of self-eulogy

In an instant reaction to the annual Budget speech 2026, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), said the following in a statement issued on 01.02.2026:

“As expected, the budget 2026 placed today, has been no presentation of the real economic situation of the country but a neatly crafted self-eulogistic document of ‘spectacular’ performance by the BJP government stuffed with spurious data compiled in questionable manner. No clear sector-specific allocations have been spelled out nor has there been any reference to action taken report or progress status of previously declared projects or programmes.

The budget speech has been made as clumsier as possible with overdose of academic jargons and has given a clear indication of providing more and more concessions and amenities to the big business and tax evaders. The claim

of lifting 25 crore people out of poverty is a clear misstatement when viewed in the context of adoption of incorrect parameters and improper analytical methodology. Not a single mention has been made about rising inflation, falling rupee, mounting unemployment, closure of industries, spurt in job loss, falling income of poor peasants and rapid corporatization of agricultural segment which are wreaking havoc in people’s life. ‘Ease of doing businesses’ glaringly prevailed over showing any concern about ‘ease of living’ of the citizens.

We record our strong indignation at such a farce of reducing annual budget into a pedagogic document devoid of basic economic figures, crucial facts relevant to people’s life and announcement of any concrete step towards giving some relief to the progressively pauperizing and distressed Indians and reject the budget, lock, stock and barrel.”

Unbowed by police repression, valiant ASHA workers in West Bengal demonstrate their fighting spirit



of life have died down, rather rekindled with yet more resolve and tenacity. Who constituted the determined brigade to wrest their just demands from the governments, both central and state? Ordinary women belonging to the impoverished sections of the society and

Firm as ever in resisting despotic injustice and oppression, Kolkata, the citadel of mass movement with a glorious past, was in ferment again. The purple legion swamped the entire city on 21 January last. Those who witnessed this gushing wave of over 40,000 spirited women marching towards the Swasthya Bhawan, the State Health Ministry office, have been inspired to see that not all hopes

discharging a vital social responsibility as ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers. They are part and parcel of the healthcare system in the country. They work almost round the clock to act as a bridge between healthcare facilities and rural populations, focusing on maternal/child health (counseling, immunizations,

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People’s Parliament in Bangalore Adopted People’s Education Policy 2026

24 January 2026. A historic day! It witnessed an unprecedented event in the 80 years after independence. Hitherto, the governments had prepared education policies according to their political design. People had to either accept it or protest against it. In 1989 the document ‘Towards a People’s Education Policy - An Alternative to NPE 1986’ was adopted in first All India Convention of AISEC held in Chennai. Before that hundreds of seminars, symposia and discussion were held throughout the country based on the draft.

But the then government took no cognizance of that. But this time, raising a far louder voice of protest against the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-20) formulated by the BJP government to virtually ruin the education system and hand it over to the private operators to sell as a

profitable commodity, education loving people, eminent educationists and personalities adopted the People’s Education Policy 2026

(PEP-26) through the People’s Parliament in Bangalore! The All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) had convened the People’s Parliament.



Historic People's Parliament in Bangalore

Two education policies. NEP-20 and PEP-2026.

NEP-20 was introduced during the pandemic-hit period, when the entire country was under total lockdown and the door for any meaningful exchange of opinion was shut. But PEP-26 has been adopted through free exchange of ideas and opinions across the country. The former promotes all-out privatisation-commercialisation of education; but PEP-26 advocates for free universal public education. One encourages vocational education; another speaks for value-based secular scientific democratic education which aims at man-making and character-building. One promotes online, blended or distant mode, while the other emphasises classroom or formal education assisted by modern equipment, including information technology. One declares mythology is history; the other stands for evidence-based history. One introduced unscientific obscurantist ideas in the name of Indian

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Knowledge System (IKS) and deleted basic theories of science like Darwin's Evolutionary concept and Mendeleev's Periodic Table; the other strongly pitches for scientific curricula. One is trying to impose Hindi through the three-language policy; the other firmly declares the two-language policy (mother tongue and English). One is funding Sanskrit education to take the country back to the ages of darkness; the other discards Sanskrit learning as an outdated one. Two education policies, thus, stand just at opposite poles.

The NEP-2020

The NEP-2020 was implemented without taking any opinion from the common people, educationists, and teacher/student organisations. It handed over the responsibility of education for the first five years of a student to the Anganwadi centres, which have no proper infrastructure or faculty, thus indirectly pushing the guardians to send their wards to the private institutions. It discouraged textbooks at the elementary level. It silently introduced the 'no detention policy' at the school level and abolished the 10th-level and 12th-level board examinations.

It introduced the semester system from the secondary to the highest levels of education. It emphasised vocational education and so called professional courses when the unemployment rate of the youths is the highest after independence. It distorted history to create communal division and deleted the Mughal period, liberal, democratic and secular ideas from the syllabus. It introduced unscientific courses like astrology. It changed the period of undergraduate education from 3 to 4 years (FYUGP). It initiated the Academic Bank of Credit (or, ABC) and implemented a course credit system which is based on learning hours and not on learnt contents.

It promotes a multi-disciplinary approach in education that is detrimental to acquiring proper knowledge. It prescribed a multiple exit and entry system in the graduation course and encouraged the cafeteria approach, which means that a student must not study in a particular institution during a particular course. It reduced the importance of major/honours subjects which would pose hindrance before grasping the essence of the topics. It dismantled all regulatory bodies like the UGC, AICTE, MCI, etc., and created a single regulatory organization—the Vikshit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA), a highly bureaucratic body to be totally controlled by the central government. NEP-20 partially shifts the research

People's Parliament in Bangalore

work from the universities to the colleges without any stipulated development of the required infrastructure and providing the necessary faculty and funding. It makes MPhil a pre-condition for going for PhD, a totally unnecessary proposition. It had curtailed the rights of the higher secondary institutions to select their students and introduced the National Testing Agency (NTA) to do that.

People's Education Policy 2026

All these highly devastating propositions of the NEP-2020 were replaced, and a universal, inclusive, secular, scientific, democratic, and holistic people's education policy was drafted and published on 22 May 2025, the birthday of Raja Rammohan Roy, the pioneer of the Indian Renaissance. This draft based on Alternate Education Policy of 1989 was rendered in 12 languages, and more than fifty thousand copies were printed and distributed among the students, teachers, professors, educationists and people of all strata. Innumerable meetings, indoor and outdoor, were organised on it. Opinions from all levels were collected. Huge number of amendments streamed to the screening committee, who improved the draft PEP-26 incorporating them. Preparations for People's Parliament in Bangalore was made ready in this way.

People's parliament went to session

The venue of the People's Parliament was Ramiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore. Delegates from 25 states and union territories took part in it. They travelled a long distance to attend the Parliament for finalising the People's Education Policy 2026. Their journey was strenuous as they had to travel in overcrowded trains. The excessive crowd was because of common people working outside their home state and rushing to their homes to appear in SIR hearings. The delegates were college and university students, research scholars, primary and secondary teachers, professors, scientists, jurists, doctors, engineers, litterateurs and the education-loving people.

The speakers, dignitaries and the leaders of the AISEC were on the dais. It was a galaxy of luminaries. Prof. A Murigeppa, the former VC of Hampi Kannad University and the Chairman of the Reception Committee, formally welcomed all dignitaries, guests, speakers and delegates. Shri Prakash N Shah, eminent journalist, intellectual and the President of AISEC, presided. He said that after being released from jail in January 1977 following end of

Emergency, they thought that it was a second freedom struggle. But now he finds that struggle did not end then and there. All of them are now in the midst of an ongoing struggle to save public education, humanity and civilization.

Professor Tarun Kanti Naskar, General Secretary, AISEC, in his address, said that our freedom fighters struggled for an independent India to ensure an exploitation-free society where development of all the citizens would be guaranteed. But all the governments, irrespective of hue, have brought down attack on life, particularly education. The heinous NEP-2020 is an onslaught on education and that ought to be combated in every possible way.

Dignitaries and speakers rejected NEP-20 and stressed on implementation of PEP-26

Prof. Sukhdeo Thorat, former Chairman of UGC, said: The Central Government has threatened the states and educational institutions that funding would be stopped if they do not implement NEP-2020.

Mr Jawahar Sircar, former Union Cultural Secretary, Government of India, former head of Prasar Bharati and an ex-MP, said: 'This huge gathering of most scholastic intellect of India is a fitting reply to those who have introduced the heinous NEP-2020. A very coordinated Hindu communal force, the most evil force after independence, is infiltrating the young brains. Their education policy reflects the four 'C's'; centralisation, communalisation, corruption, and corporatisation. We have to stand one and all against it.'

Dr Dhruvajyoti Mukherjee, an INSA scientist and geologist of international repute briefly dwelt upon the unscientific and divisive features of NEP-2020.

Prof. Ram Puniyani of IIT Mumbai said: This is an all-out attack on every sphere of life. We have to unitedly combat it.

Prof. Aditya Mukherjee of JNU observed that the Central Government is attacking the secular concept of education, inclusiveness, and saffronizing the syllabus. They are not only deleting the Mughal period from the history textbooks but also muffling the students' voice.

Dr Niranjandhya, Vice-President, AISEC argued that any people's education policy must be accessible, affordable and acceptable to all. But the NEP-2020 is just to the contrary.

Dr. R. Mahalaxmi, former Professor of JNU, expressed anguish over decrease of central funding for education and curtailment of academic autonomy.

Dr Mridula Mukherjee, a

historian and former professor of JNU, despised teaching of communal ideas in schools and colleges. The BJP-led Central Government which is trying to gag the voice of protest everywhere has appointed a stooge of theirs as the Director of JNU.

Dr Soumitra Banerjee, former Director of IISER-Kolkata and a S. S. Bhatnagar awardee, pointed out that the NEP-2020 is promoting most unscientific IKS, and starting from the PM, CMs and other ministers of the ruling BJP are delivering unscientific speeches. He strongly preached for scientific education whose pivot is not believing belief in anything without evidence.

Professor Batskhem Myrboh of NEHU, Meghalaya, in his address said how NEP-2020, in a country full of diversity, has negated the spirit of federalism. This policy was framed not in consultation with the states. Centralisation of education in a country like India is undesirable.

Prof Arun Kumar, a noted economist and retired professor of JNU, vehemently criticized promotion of professional courses and destruction of basic education through NEP-2020. He strongly advocated prevalence of academic autonomy.

Thematic Sessions

Like the Parliamentary Standing Committees, ten different 'Thematic Sessions' were held to discuss on 1) Guiding Values and principles (Chaired by Prof. Siraj Ahmed and Prof. Santanu Roy), 2) Removal of disparities (Chaired by Prof. L. Jawahar Nesan and Ms. Sharda Dixit), 3) Education structure at school-level, pre-school education, and school education (Chaired by Prof. Chandrasekhar Chakraborty and Dr. Lambodar Prasad Singh), 4) Teacher education and value education (Chaired by Dr. K. V. Manoj and Dr. Shinty Antony), 5) Higher education, university system, and research programmes (Chaired by Prof A H Rajasab and DVR Saigopal), 6) Democratic functioning, autonomy and governance and funding education (Chaired by Prof R Manivannan and Prof George Joseph), 7) Vocational Education and Professional Education (Chaired by Allamprabhu Bettraduru and Prof. Srikumaran), 8) Adult education and non-formal and distance education (Chaired by Dr. Ghanashyam Nath), 9) Language policy in education (Chaired by Prof. H. Thilagar), 10) Physical education and sports/games and online education (Chaired by Dr. Francis Almeida and V S Anilkumar).

Concluding session of the parliament

The Parliament elected Prof. Sachidanand Sinha, former Professor of JNU, as the Speaker. He, in his address, said: The AISEC has

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Seed Act 2025 —a part of total privatization of Indian agricultural sector

Everyone is aware of the growing misery and penury of the peasants in capitalist India. The governments, both at the centre, as well as in the states have continued serving their ruling monopolist masters by all possible means. They have been taking pro-corporate policies in every field of Indian agriculture—land, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, marketing, procurement. As a result millions and millions of peasants have become landless and turned into agricultural labourers. The new Seed Bill 2025 introduced by the central BJP government is in continuation of the same policy.

The Draft Seed Bill, 2025 was tabled on 12 November 2025. The salient features of this Bill are as below:

1. Establishing a comprehensive regulatory mechanism replacing the existing Seeds Act, 1966 to oversee the sale, import, export, production, storage and supply of quality seeds in the country,
2. Defining farmers, dealers, distributors and producers as separate regulated entities, each with specific roles and responsibilities,
3. Creating a 27-member Central Seed Committee and a 15-member State Seed Committee to guide seed regulation,
4. Defining “seed” as any type of living embryo or propagule, including seedlings, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes, roots, cuttings, all types of grafts, tissue culture plantlets, synthetic seeds and other vegetatively propagated material, capable of re-generation and giving rise to a plant which is true to such type on which it was produced except in case of seed of hybrids where performance is assured for first filial generation only and includes seeds of cereals, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fiber crops, forage and fodder crops, green manures, sugar crops, fruits, vegetables, spices, flower crops, ornamental crops and plantation crops,
5. Vesting power with The Central Seed Committee to recommend minimum standards for germination, purity, traits, seed health and genetic purity for seeds,
6. Authorizing the State Seed Committees to advise their respective governments on the

registration of seed producers, seed dealers, processing units and nurseries,

7. Making registration of Seed Producers, Seed Processing Units, Seed Dealers, Distributors, and Plant Nurseries mandatory. Compulsory registration of all varieties of seeds and meeting certain prescribed minimum standards. For instance, for transgenic varieties of seeds, registration is to be obtained under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
8. Allowing a Central Accreditation System to oversee operation of nationally recognized seed companies across multiple states without separate licenses, to facilitate ease of doing business,

Origin and evolution of Seed Sector

Before dwelling on further into the details of the Bill, let us see in brief the origin and evolution of the Seed Sector in the pre-independence period. Seed is basic input for agricultural production. The response of all other inputs to a large extent depends on the quality of seeds. As India was primarily an agricultural country, the majority of the seed requirements were traditionally met by way of farmer to farmer exchange. Seed was thus deemed to be property of the peasants. The farmers themselves handled production, processing, storage and distribution. After attainment of independence, the central government had started to regulate the quality of seed meant for sale in order to increase agricultural production and attain self-sufficiency in Food Production.

Seed Act of 1966

After independence, the first enactment in the seed Sector was The Seeds Act, 1966. It consisted of three important provisions namely a) seed certification, b) seed inspection, and c) seed testing. Each of these is important by itself and at the same time, they mutually reinforce each other. This Act regulated only notified varieties of seeds. It came into force with the enactment of the Seeds Rules in 1968. Again, the government had made amendments to the Seeds Act and Rules in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1978. Seeds were declared as an Essential Commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. A Seeds (Control) Order had also been issued by the government in this regard in

1983 with provisions such as compulsory licensing of the seed dealers, price control, control of seed movement and submission of the information about the procurement and sale of seed, etc.

The order became enforceable only from July 1994 due to litigation in Court. The Seeds Act of 1966, to a large extent, served the establishment of Research and Development in the public Sector, of new varieties suited to different geo-climatic- agro zones in the country.

Policy on Seed Development, globalization and TRIPS under WTO

The introduction of a New Policy on Seed Development (NPSD) in 1988 liberalized the Indian seed industry. Until the late 1980s, participation of private sector in the seed industry in India was limited by two factors: the then economic policies of restricting foreign investment and licensing, and the seed-specific policies that limited the sector to ‘small scale’ participants and severely restricted imports of research or breeder seeds. With the implementation of the New Seed Policy of 1988, the ‘small scale’ limitation was removed, and entry of large domestic and foreign firms were permitted by lifting import restrictions.

After adoption of policies of capitalist globalization in the interest of monopoly capital, by the then Congress Government in 1991 which abolished industrial licensing system and the restrictions on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and agreed to the conditionalities of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) stipulated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1994. According to Article 27.3(b) of the TRIPS agreement, if plant diversity is to be protected, patents must be obtained or a specific system must be created for protection (sui generis), or a combination of both.

Role of Public and Private Seed Sector

From then on private sector has started to play a significant role in the seed industry. At present, the number of companies engaged in seed production or seed trade is of the order of 400 to 500. However, the main focus of private seed companies has been on the high value low volume seeds. On the other hand, low value high volume seeds market is still dominated by the public sector corporations. Private sector dominates in

vegetable seeds and planting materials of horticultural crops mainly in maize, sunflower and cotton. On the other hand, public sector majorly controls production of high volume low margin c-seeds for crops of wheat, paddy, other cereals, oilseeds and pulses, the public sector seed corporations might remain dominant in cereals, pulses and oilseeds for more years.

Private Seed Companies control over seed sector

Consequent to the Economic reforms and signing of TRIPS conditionalities, new companies of foreign and domestic origin entered into the Indian seed sector and vied with each other for the market. Domestic firms invested more on technology to compete with the entry of new research-intensive foreign firms. This resulted in huge increase in the cost of seed production which invariably affected the sale price of Seed. Moreover, the transition from open-pollinated varieties (OPVs), which farmers can save and reuse in subsequent years, to hybrids, which cannot be reused without a significant reduction in yield and quality, forced the peasants to purchase seeds every year. As per a Survey Report Published in the Journal of Intellectual Property Rights, March 2016, (Vol 21, pp 73-88) the value of Indian domestic Seed industry increased from Rs. 600 crores in 1988 to Rs.10,000 crores in 2011 indicating highly sophisticated production by both public and private sectors. The share of value of proprietary hybrids in the Indian seed market increased from 16.66% in 1988 to 60% in 2011. The new seed policy of 1988 initiated and incentivized the process of privatization of the Indian seed industry. As a result, share of private sector in the seed business increased from 50-60% during 1984-95 to 80% in 2010.

PPVFRA Act and emergence of PSC

India's signing of WTO in 1995 necessitated to pave the way for Private Research and Development of new varieties of seeds. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Act (PPVFRA) 2001 was formulated for protection of plant varieties in India by integrating the rights of breeders, farmers and village communities. However, as the Private Seed Companies have more resources to invest, they soon established control of hybrid seed production that accounted for 90 percent of new varieties, which received Plant Variety Protection certificates. So, acquisition of improved technology

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through increased investment by the private sector compelled the peasants to procure better seeds at high cost. The peasants would thus stand debarred from domestically producing, saving, selecting, and exchanging their own seeds. This illustrates that the technological barrier for the realization of farmers' rights is more profound in India than the legal barrier.

Disastrous condition of Indian peasants

Now, let's take a look at the disastrous condition of the Indian peasants at present. Due to abysmal increase in the cost of agricultural inputs like seed, spike in irrigation costs due to spurt in diesel price, the cost of agricultural production has increased tremendously during the last three decades. Remunerative price of crops so produced by expending highly in inputs is still elusive to the impoverished peasants. All the bourgeois governments, both at the Centre and in the states, are unyielding to the farmers' demand of MSP @C2+ 50 % and guaranteed procurement of all agricultural produce at MSP. So, farming is not generating even subsistence level income for the toiling peasants. Trapped in high debt and often forced to distress sale at throwaway price, many peasants are committing suicides or leaving agriculture to work as migrant labourers. According to The National Crime Records Bureau and Statistics, 10783 farmers have committed Suicide in 2023 alone. Unofficial sources put the number of peasants' suicide in last 30 years to over 3 lakhs.

Since the peasants are the principal stakeholders of agriculture, it is imperative that before making any revision in the laws governing farming, peasants' interest is to be given highest priority. Same is

Entire agricultural sector is doled out to giant multi-nationals

applicable to the case of seed-related regulations.

Among others, timely availability of quality seeds at fair prices, compensation guarantee for crop failures due to spurious or faulty seeds etc. are issues that the peasantry are being deprived of for decades. Still the government machinery is made more and more dysfunctional both in procurement of agricultural inputs as well as selling the produce at fair price. A few years back potato and cotton farmers in states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar massively had incurred heavy losses due to sale of poor quality seeds by the Private Seed Corporations. Everyone knows that ordinary peasants cannot legally fight these monopolist giants and MNCs who supply spurious or faulty seeds. Even the governments have not endeavoured to secure compensation from such companies or to punish them in an exemplary manner.

Other anti-peasant aspects of Seed Bill 2025

Once again we come back to some other critical aspects of the proposed Seed Bill 2025. In this Bill the definition of 'Seed' (Section 2-z) encompasses all seeds and plants and its variations. Whereas the Seeds Act, 1966 covered only some selective seeds. That means, vista is widened for the agri-giants and corporate sharks. Further, the Bill does not have any strong provisions for compensation to the peasants in case of crop failures due to faulty seeds save and except prescribing legal route which, as is known to all, is not that accessible to the poor farmers. Further, while a few individual farmers might save and

share seeds, community groups—such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Women's Seed collectives and traditional seed-saving networks—would be classified as commercial entities. They would be subject to the same bureaucratic and digital compliance requirements as large companies. Similarly, there are no provisions for the determination of the prices of the seeds/plant variety. Only in an emergent situation like scarcity governmental intervention is prescribed. It also shows price determination of seeds will be exclusive preserve of the entity which registers Seed / Plant variety under the act. New registration requirements of the Bill will force closure of thousands of seed outlets and nurseries, which are operating currently like cottage industries across the country. Again, the Bill also demands extensive digital reporting. QR codes, online submissions and continuous tracking pose challenges for small rural seed keepers with limited internet access or digital literacy. So, the livelihood of considerable population linked with agriculture will face calamities.

The Bill allows foreign organizations to be recognized for VCU (Value for Cultivation and Use) testing. This will allow genetically modified or patented seeds to enter India solely based on overseas assessments. If genetically engineered or gene-edited seeds are allowed without proper scrutiny, "the hazards posed to human and ecosystem health would greatly multiply; and small farmers would be rendered even more unviable", observed experts.

The fate of R&D facilities established in the National and State

level under ICAR and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is going to be relegated to the back and priority will be on complete takeover of the facilities by the private operators in seed business. Through this Bill, the BJP government will tweak the federal structure in relation to seed sector, which is an essential component of agriculture now under the state list.

Exclusion of the individual peasants from the coverage of the Seed Bill 2025 will have serious ramifications in so far as peasants are concerned. Following handing over 80% of the seed sector to the private operators, individual peasants would stick to low yielding varieties due to ignorance or distress whereas high yielding varieties would be produced and sold by corporates. This discrimination would be detrimental to the interest of majority of small and medium peasants.

Peasants are gearing up to launch fresh struggle

From the foregoing discussion, it can be seen that the present BJP government at the Centre has introduced the Seed Bill 2025 in the interests of the profit-monger monopoly houses and multinationals at the cost of the toiling peasantry. This anti-people pro-monopolist character of the central BJP government is becoming exposed with every passing day. The historic Delhi peasant movement which compelled the government to stall three black farm laws has kindled a new fighting spirit among the deprived peasants.

Now the suffering peasantry is taking preparation to fight against all sorts of anti-peasant anti-people policies of the ruling capitalist class and its servitor governments. We are sure that they will again create history of united organized sustained struggle to force the government to bow down.

Valiant ASHA workers' struggle in West Bengal

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institutional delivery), health education (hygiene, sanitation, nutrition), disease control (referrals, basic care, medicine depot), and community mobilization to improve health outcomes. They promote government health schemes, track births/deaths, distribute essential medicines (ORS, IFA), and facilitate access to services like Anganwadi and Primary Health Centers. ASHA volunteers thus are vital first responders and grassroots health workers, crucial for connecting vulnerable populations with essential health programmes and promoting positive health behaviours particularly in rural areas.



Barricade Fight

Thus, ASHA workers function as fulcrum of basic medical health service to women and children, in particular, belonging to the downtrodden category of the population. But while the ASHA

workers strive to keep others healthy and hygienic, they find themselves languishing in appalling poverty, being deprived of what they are entitled to receive and subjected to utter neglect by the government organization. And often they are asked to shoulder additional responsibilities not within the purview of their job description. Of late, a section of ASHA workers in West Bengal have also been involved in the ongoing

special intensive revision of the electoral rolls as booth-level officers.

There are nearly 11 lakh ASHA workers in the country. In West Bengal, the number is over 70,000 while in Kerala and Karnataka, the numbers are around 30,000 and 42,000 respectively. Yet, the governments, both at the Centre and in the states, are inexplicably apathetic to the well-being of such crucial healthcare workers. Even they are not recognized as workers but placed in the category of volunteers with an abysmally low compensation of just Rs 5250 per month for less than stipulated minimum wage of Rs. 375/- per bag for unskilled labours (disbursement of which is also abnormally delayed for months) and bereft of essential amenities, benefits

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Donald Trump sets eyes on Columbia, Cuba, Panama, Canada and Greenland

As US imperialist economy faces growing insoluble crisis bred by the inherent laws of capitalist system, now in its death throes, US President Donald Trump, as trusted servitor of ruling US monopolists and multinationals, has revived the imperialist doctrine in its rawest form, the “Don-roe Doctrine”. This doctrine refers to a 2026-era term for President Donald Trump’s foreign policy approach, which adapts the 19th-century infamous Monroe Doctrine to assert US dominance in the Western Hemisphere. Focus of the US imperialist sharks is now on reasserting hemispheric domination to secure strategic territories, reassert control over resources and trade routes through military intervention, economic sanctions and open threat of dire consequences if genuflecting before their fiats is refused. While legality can be bent anyway or dispensed with. President Trump has suggested the US could take military action against other countries in Latin America and threatened Columbia and its “sick man” President, Gustavo Petro, warned Mexico’s leaders to “get their act together”, and said Cuba is “ready to fall”. Alongside, he has openly declared to bring Greenland, an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark and Canada under its powerful grip.

Doctrine reflects imperialist class design

In the wake of rising freedom struggles of the Latin American states in the first quarter of the 19th century, the US hegemonism responded with “Monroe Doctrine” in 1823. Formulated by the 5th American President, James Monroe, the doctrine asserted that any attempt by the European powers to interfere in the affairs of the Americas or to acquire territory on the American continent would be treated by United States as an unfriendly act. Under the slogan of “America for the Americans” the US hegemonic regime tried to pose itself as the sole colonizing power in the western hemisphere. From then on, the US hegemon intervened twenty times in between 1857 and 1891 – from Mexico in 1857 in the north to Chile in 1891, in the south. The Monroe Doctrine was a juridical fiction for conquest. From its inception, it functioned as an enabling instrument for US capital: first clearing European rivals from the field, then licensing gunboat diplomacy, orchestrating regime change through coup or flexing

military muscle, counterinsurgency, and economic strangulation in the name of “stability.” What Donald Trump now rebaptizes as the “Don-roe Doctrine” is not parody but disclosure. Whatever little camouflage of democratic posture was there till the other day has also been shrugged off. Overlordism and gangsterism are now asserted as entitlement. Power is no longer embarrassed by itself; it is performed.

The pulverization of Gaza, or seizure of the Venezuelan President under the banner of narcotics enforcement have not been an excess or improvisation. These were just trailers. Trump’s proclamation that “American dominance in the Western Hemisphere will never be questioned again” should be read not as bravado but as an outward projection of class power at a moment when both domestic and international legitimacies have been given a burial by the Pentagon rulers.

The “Don-roe Doctrine” is a crisis doctrine of dying capitalism that stands upon flexing military muscle, legal plasticity and extractive motive. It is designed to secure strategic territories, reassert control over natural resources and trade routes, and driving political opponents to surrender timidly. Greenland, Cuba, Columbia, Canada, and Panama are not isolated provocations or rhetorical targets. They are integrated sites within a single imperial grid, where sovereignty is conditional, steady erosion of international law is instrumental, and force is substitute for consent.

Doctrine without restraint: From Monroe to Trump

Historically, the Monroe Doctrine functioned as a negative injunction—Europe stay out—while enabling a positive project—US expansion. Over the twentieth century, it became a warrant for intervention, from Guatemala in 1954 to Chile in 1973, refined through so called Cold War, an euphemism for ideological dichotomy of two different socio-political systems and “counter-narcotics” in unipolar world. Trump’s doctrine abandons the humanitarian alibis and speaks the grammar of plain and simple power-mongering. The unilateral authority of triggering violence is not merely exercised; it is marketed also as a tool of intimidation.

Greenland: Ice, Minerals, and the Arctic Commons

Trump’s fixation in Greenland

exposes the material core of the doctrine. In recent years, there has been increased interest in Greenland’s natural resources, including rare earth minerals, uranium and iron. It could also have significant oil and gas reserves. The island’s melting ice unlocks shipping lanes. Moreover, the territory is also strategically advantageous to strengthen surveillance mechanism on entire Europe. In fact, at the height of the Cold War, the US had plans to station nuclear missiles on the island but abandoned the project over engineering problems and objections by Denmark. Trump argues that the US could claim the island because of its efforts to defend the territory during World War II after Denmark was invaded by Germany. The US alone could protect, develop and improve Greenland, added Trump. And to bully the European powers opposing Trump’s “pious wish” to adopt Greenland for rearing and steering it for ascent to prosperity, Trump has threatened new 10% trade tariffs “on any and all goods” sent to the US from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands and Finland if those countries do not support his plans. These would take effect on 1 February 2026, increasing to 25% from 1 June if no deal has been agreed. Responding to the threat of further tariffs, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen insisted that “Europe won’t be blackmailed”. She and other European leaders issued a joint statement warning that Trump’s words would “undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral”. Greenland’s Prime Minister Jens Frederik Nielsen has repeatedly rejected Trump’s arguments, dismissing the idea of US control as a “fantasy”.

Yet the claim persists, backed by a swaggering certainty that no one would “fight the United States militarily” over Greenland. This is not diplomacy; it is enclosure. To the imperialist gangsters perched atop the tower of Capitol Hills, the Arctic is being reimagined as a frontier of primitive accumulation, where climate catastrophe becomes opportunity and indigenous sovereignty is an inconvenience to be managed. By framing acquisition as a measure to protect “national security,” US imperialists have been calling jackal a blue coloured docile herbivorous species.

Cuba: Starvation as Strategy

Cuba has long been a thorn to

US’ dream of extending its sphere of influence throughout the Caribbeans. Despite all attempts including a naval blockade to prevent further shipments and demand for the removal of existing missiles of USSR then stationed in Cuba, US imperialists have not succeeded in cowering Cuba having in place a socialist set up after Cuban Revolution that overthrew the autocratic rule of Fulgencio Batista, a stooge of US imperialism, on 1 January 1959. But of late, with Venezuelan oil import substantially curtailed and Mexican supplies diminished following US intervention in Venezuela, Cuba’s economy is considerably affected. Presuming that Cuba is now so enfeebled as to be unable to resist any US armed invasion, Trump has now relocated attention on that island country. Trump’s comments—“I don’t think we need any action”—betray the strategy: let scarcity do the work. Sanctions are framed as inevitability, their human costs erased by a rhetoric of regime failure. This is siege as policy, perfected over decades. The goal is to make Cuba capitulate bleakly under threat. When Secretary of State Marco Rubio warns Havana to be “concerned,” he speaks the language of an imperialist power that understands deprivation as leverage.

Columbia: Narco-War as Imperialist Alibi

Columbia exposes the most naked continuity with past interventions by imperialist forces particularly US. Accusations of surging cocaine production under President Gustavo Petro revive the old narco-state trope, a flexible justification for application of force by US pirates. When President Trump muses that a military operation “sounds good,” he collapses law enforcement into warfare, erasing the distinction that international law insists upon. But Columbia is not perturbed. Columbia’s Foreign Minister Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio has warned that her country would answer any breach of its sovereignty with a military response, in the wake of threats from United States President Donald Trump. She also underscored that, under international law, countries have the right to self-defence should they be attacked.

Such a valiant response by Columbian minister that she would defend the homeland—recalls a long history of US involvement in Columbia’s internal conflicts, from

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Tormenting spectacle of school dropouts

Rewind to 2015, a year after the BJP government was saddled in power and PM Modi took the reins. Pan the camera to Panipat, Haryana. What would appear on the screen is PM Modi's narration of his dream to take care of the girls, particularly girl children. "Beti Padoo, Beti Bachao" (educate the girls, save the girls) — such was the mellifluous coinage our hon'ble PM had culled to describe his concern for the girl children. From then onwards, it is being reiterated times without number. PM Modi also called upon all to take selfies with girl children.

During his online lectures titled 'Man ki Baat', he is often seen to be expressing deep concern about the depletion in number of birth of girl children, promising empowerment of women and stressing upon increasing the consciousness among the adolescent girls. But, unfortunately, when we open the progress register of last 11 years, this slogan, we are sorry to say, sounds like prattle. We leave out for the present the most harrowing figures of rape, gang-rape, molestation, dowry deaths, honour killing, acid attacks, female foeticide and female infanticide which bear eloquent testimony of the multiplying multifaceted atrocities being against women in India much to the contrary of PM Modi's "save girls" catchphrase and turn to the "Beto Padoo" scenario.

Let us just set our eyes on a few available figures regarding school education. In the parliament, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development stated in December last that over the past five years, 65.7 lakh children have left school, and nearly half of them— 29.8 lakh— were adolescent girls. This is

the official figure. There is every reason to believe that actual number would be much more. Secondly, our hon'ble PM and his cabinet colleagues often pitch for 'double engine government' meaning BJP governments at both the Centre and in the states. They hold that such double engines would accelerate pace of progress and prosperity in the country. But in so far as 'Beti Padoo' is concerned, double engines have a very dismal record. In 2025-26 alone, 2.4 lakh children have left schools in Gujarat. Out of that, 1.1 lakh are girls. Whereas in 2024, record says the drop out figure was only 54, 541. In other words, the number has soared 340% in just one year in a high-profile state like Gujarat. In Assam, the figure of drop out is reported to be 1,50, 906 of which 57,409 are girls. In UP, out of a total of 99,218 drop outs, 56,462 are girls. So, the double engine-pulled states rank first, second and third in school dropouts which constitute a sizeable number of girls. If performance is such, what kind of engines are hauling the states?

But why so many girls are prematurely deserting schools? According to government reports and related studies, key reasons for school dropouts include poverty (forcing children into labor/early marriage), lack of interest/motivation, poor school quality and infrastructure, social & cultural factors (like gender bias, early marriage), migration, and inadequate parental involvement/support, with issues like lack of counselors and disability support also contributing significantly. We are delighted know from the government what we all know. But we expect of the government to remedy the situation.

No, the government has not forgotten that but come out with a slew of redressal measures. For example, the schools where the number of students is falling below 50% are being merged with another school. But what is the fallout of such "mergers and closures"? So, the school density (number of schools per square mile/kilometer) is decreased and distance between two schools is also increased. Before we dwell on this increasing distance phenomenon, let us have a quick glance over the outcome of the much-trumpeted "mergers and closures" policy prescribed in the most destructive National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-20).

But what is the scenario of this 'merger and closure'? Few days back, Yogi Adityanath, the BJP Chief Minister of UP, announced that 27,000 schools would be closed and merged with others in his state. The numbers are 19500 in Rajasthan, 15,000 in Maharashtra, 8207 in West Bengal, 7,000 in Gujarat, 6,040 in Chhattisgarh, 5,953 in Assam and 3400 in Karnataka. all state governments, irrespective of the hues, are competing with each other over closure of schools. In spite of that, the country would be 'Vishwaguru' (teacher of the world) as claimed in NEP -20.

The Karnataka government plans to merge several existing village schools and replace them with about 6,000 KPS Magnet schools, with one school per gram panchayat. In the first phase, orders have already been issued to set up 900 Magnet schools. The circular states that schools located within a radius of one to five kilometers will be merged into these centres. This is in flagrant violation of

the Right to Education (RTI) Act which stipulates establishment of a school within a reasonable walking distance (typically 1 km for primary and 3 km for upper primary) of every child's habitation, ensuring geographical access—a must for guaranteeing universal education.

There is a wave of protest in Karnataka over the Magnet scheme. Parents, local residents, and education activists and even students have voiced strong apprehensions about the future of public education, especially in Karnataka's rural and semi-urban areas. The KPS Magnet School Scheme aims to consolidate students from smaller, often under-resourced, government schools into larger, centralized "magnet" schools. These consolidated schools are intended to offer improved facilities but are often located at greater distances from students' homes. Students may even be forced to travel 10-25 kms to go to a magnet school. This will pose great difficulty to the children particularly in the hilly regions of Western Karnataka. So many guardians will be compelled to stop sending their wards to school.

Moreover, in many families, girls of the age of 10-12 who read in Class VI or VII also look after household works and their younger brothers and sisters. Magnet scheme would come a cropper to school education of such girls.

In fine, the problem of school drop outs is going to be exacerbated because of so called 'mergers and closures' fiat of the government. It will be acute in case of the girls. So, the girls would either be forced to premature marriage or be engaged as labourers or even being trafficked. Hence the girls would not only be educated but even be deprived of a decent living. So, the slogan of 'Beti Padoo, Beti Bachao' would turn into a damp squib.

ASHA Movement

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valid tickets. The lackeys of the ruling party and government even went to the houses of ASHA workers and threatened them with dire consequences in case they "showed audacity" to venture out of home and proceed to Kolkata. And even when over 60 thousand ASHA workers who braved all odds to reach Kolkata were cordoned off by the police at different railway stations including Howrah and Sealdah stations of Kolkata and various bus stands with a view to preventing them from joining the demonstration. So, they could not reach the venue of the destination. Around 12 noon, they succeeded breaking the cordon and proceeded towards Esplanade East. Not just that. The police even raided the SUCI(C) party centre at Shibpur where our beloved General Secretary Comrade Provash Ghosh stays with other comrades, to hunt down Comrade Ismat Ara Khatun. Even the

central offices of the Party and AIUTUC located in Lenin Sarani, Kolkata, were surrounded by the police as part of intense surveillance and covert threat. But the ASHA workers who reached Esplanade area rushed to the Central Party office, managed to rescue Comrade Ismat Ara Khatun and escorted her to the massive rally near Esplanade. Many ASHA workers and organizers were arrested in different places of the state. A good number of union leaders were house-arrested. Such kind of over-activism of the police-administration has not been witnessed in the state after independence, neither during Congress nor CPI (M) rule.

Yet overcoming all obstacles even by engaging in barricade fight with the police, when around 30,000 ASHA workers reached the Swasthya Bhawan (Ministry of Health) in Saltlake area, police again fenced them. But there also, the valorous ASHA workers threw away the fence and demanded an audience with the

authorities. Compelled by the pressure of movement, Chandrima Bhattacharya, the minister of state for health, West Bengal, (heath ministry is headed by the Chief Minister herself), met a delegation of the ASHA workers. But she did not provide any concrete assurances regarding the pay hike and other *bona fide* demands of ASHA workers. It is pertinent to mention that Rs 5,250 that the ASHA workers receive per month is far less than the stipulated minimum wage. As of October 2024/2025, central government monthly minimum wages range notified by central government are approximately Rs 20,358 (unskilled) to Rs 26,910 (highly skilled) respectively. Daily rates for central workers start around Rs 783 for unskilled. Regional disparities in minimum wage floors. Yet they work 24 hours a day. The ASHA union has said the cease-work will continue till the demands are met.

An ASHA worker from Burdwan said, "What can we do? We get only

Rs 5,000. We are not being paid even that amount. How can we run our families." Another ASHA worker said, "Be it scorching heat, torrential rain, or biting cold, we are always out, in the middle of the night also. We did not want to come today. But we were told that senior health officials would meet us today. So, we came, and now we are being harassed."

The TMC government offered no detailed explanation beyond invoking "law and order" concerns to justify the widespread roadblocks, physical prevention of the ASHA workers from a notified rally. But the message was hard to miss. The government was visibly unnerved to see such a militant organized undaunted fighting spirit of ordinary women mostly from the rural pockets of all the districts.

Failing to provide any plausible explanation for not accepting the demands and unable to give even a lame excuse for the police atrocities,

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Design to build tourist hub on graves of butchered Palestinians in Gaza—worst ever crime by US

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 23-01-26:

The whole world unanimously condemns the atrocious design of the US imperialists executed by the Zionist Israel, its Middle East front office, resulting in killing tens of thousands of innocent Palestinians including women and children in Gaza and destruction of all houses, schools, hospitals thereby razing that land into the grounds.

Even those few who are still alive after such a brutal military assault are now asked by the Pentagon rulers to migrate to the neighbouring countries and vacate that land so that US could occupy it and build up a tourist hub on the grave of those having fallen to its bombs and bullets. And to operationalize this scheme, the US imperialists have now come out

with notorious proposal of setting up a so called “Board of Peace” and inviting other countries to join it. This is the worst crime of the century.

While we vehemently denounce the heinous design of the US imperialists to occupy Gaza under the smokescreen of setting up a so called “Board of Peace” and thereby foil the glorious struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve independence of their motherland, we also call upon the anti-imperialist peace-loving people of the world to reject this nefarious move of the US imperialists with disdain, firmly stand by the fighting Palestinians, and close their ranks to spearhead a worldwide well-knit well-coordinated powerful anti-imperialist movement in right earnest to force the Pentagon rulers to abandon their plan to illegally occupy Palestine.

Glorious ASHA workers' movement

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the minister of state for health has alleged that a political party was using ASHA workers for its own benefit and urged them not to fall into a “political trap”. Incredible indeed! The state government has raised the salary and perks of both the MLAs and ministers periodically. As on date, West Bengal MLAs receive a total monthly salary of around Rs1,21,000. In March 2024, their salary was hiked 5 times. They also get free furnished housing (or HRA) in the state capital, security personnel (often X or Y category), free medical care for family, and generous travel allowances (air/rail). They also get constituency allowances, vehicle loans/fuel, free electricity/water, and a lifelong pension. A minister of state receives Rs 1,49,000 per month plus perks. The state government has been liberally giving doles of as high as Rs1.10 lakh to reportedly over 40,000 registered Durga Puja committees at a cost of almost Rs 500 crores to the exchequer. The state government has also been organizing various fairs and exhibitions spending substantial funds. Yet the health minister of state had questioned the legitimacy and justifiability of the ASHA workers' demands.

Coming out of the meeting with the minister, Ismat Ara Khatun alleged that the claim made by Chandrima Bhattacharya on salary hikes is

completely false. “The government is distributing handouts, but not increasing the workers' allowances,” she added. “Chandrima Bhattacharya has lied about our allowances. She has shamelessly given repeated false information to the media. We strongly condemn this. The minister claimed that the allowance has been increased eight times. Does an eight-time increase result in an allowance of just Rs 5,250 or Rs 7,500 with incentives? This is completely false. We strongly condemn the kind of subtle threats from her to the ASHA workers by attaching political labels to them. ASHA workers do not provide services to the public based on any political party or ideology but out of social responsibility. The leadership of the West Bengal ASHA Workers' Union will not leave the streets until our demands are met,” Khatun said. The ASHA Karmi Union has decided to continue the movement until their demands are met. They observed a protest day on 22 January and organized demonstration in all subdivisions on 28 January.

On 30 January, eminent personalities denounced action of the state government in suppressing a just movement of the oppressed ASHA workers at a press conference on 30 January. Struggling ASHA workers are resolute in continuing their movement. We salute the struggle of the ASHA workers.

Great Leader of the world proletariat Comrade V I Lenin Red Salute

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), offering red salute to Great Lenin on the occasion of 102nd death anniversary of the great leader, at Shibpur Party Centre, on 21 January 2026.



Comrade Provash Ghosh, addressing on Lenin Memorial Day in Kolkata

Convention on Crimes Against Women organised in Karnataka



Karnataka State level Convention on Crimes Against Women at Gandhi Bhavan, Bangalore, on 7 January 2026

Pada Yatra in Delhi



On 23rd January, a “Pada Yatra” was organized by AIDSO on the occasion of 129th Birth Anniversary of the Great Revolutionary, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, as a part of ‘Resist War—Reclaim Peace, Save Humanity’ Week, in Karol Bagh, New Delhi



Municipality Health Workers on warpath in West Bengal

Repeal 4 Black Labour Codes
- New Weapon of the Capitalists
To Hire & Fire the Workers
At the Call of
CENTRAL TRADE UNIONS
MAKE SUCCESS
ALL INDIA
GENERAL STRIKE
AIUTUC
All India United Trade Union Centre
12 February 2026



SUCI (C) Book Stall at Kolkata International Book Fair from 22 January to 1 February 2026. Figure of sale of Party literature has doubled compared to last year indicating people's growing attraction towards the Party.

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